



Lamoine Board of Selectmen Minutes of December 7, 2006

Vice-Chair Perry Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Present were: Selectmen Brett Jones, Perry Fowler, Cynthia Donaldson, S. Josephine Cooper (arrived 7:07) (Selectman Richard Fennelly Jr. had informed the board earlier that he would be absent); Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Jennifer Robidoux, Ian Jellison, School Board members Robert Pulver, Faith Perkins; Michael Jordan, Beth Levesque, Enid Neleski

The meeting was recorded by the Cable TV system

Public Hearing – Automobile Graveyards – Perry opened the hearing at 7:02 PM. Stu reported the Code Enforcement Officer had inspected both of Barry Norris's automobile graveyards and found them to be in compliance with the previously issued permits. Perry asked about the tires at the Marlboro Beach Road site. Jennifer Robidoux said the pile is not getting any bigger, and they planned to haul more away soon. There being no other questions, the public hearing closed at 7:04 PM.

Cynthia moved to renew the permits for Barry Norris d/b/a Pro Auto Center at both locations. Brett 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.** Selectmen signed the permits – Chairman Cooper arrived and took control as chair of the meeting.

Agenda Review – Stu reported that Steve Joy would not be present, as he has agreed to sell to Habitat for Humanity the subdivision lot he wished to donate to the town with the proceeds of the sale to go to the Jina's Gym Fund.

Minutes of November 16, 2006 – Jo moved to approve the minutes as presented. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Christmas Schedule – Stu suggested opening the transfer station at 10AM on Friday, December 29th to accommodate the Christmas trash with pickups by Pine Tree Waste to be added at 1PM on that Friday and at Noon the next day in addition to the regular pickups. There was no objection from the Selectmen

Administrative Assistant's Vacation – Stu said he would like the week between Christmas and New Year's Day off. There was no objection from the Selectmen.

Project Update – Road Grading – Perry reported he was nearly done with the entire project. Jo said she liked the job done on Seal Point Road. Perry noted he used about 300-yards of gravel on the shoulders.

Town Hall Accessibility – Stu said the rail was put on the building by Ralph Murphy. He said Glenn Crawford might not have to raise up the other rail, and would fit the rest of the ramp for a rail based on the same height. Cynthia had questions about the encumbrance process and would like to see a list of the encumbered projects next meeting.

Website Server – Brett reported that Time Warner is working internally to be able to place a web server site at the town hall. He briefly explained how the server would work. He said the hold up appears to be the type of account the town had with Adelphia (free) and getting the Time Warner system to work with that.

Dead Animals – Stu reported that a person walking at Bloomfield called to report a bonfire had been lit at the snowmobile club and that her dog had found a dead raccoon and dead skunk in the park. He said he put out the remains of the fire and discovered 3 dead raccoons and the skunk and moved them deep into the woods. Stu said he notified the game warden and the animal control officers and the game warden said he would keep an eye on the area. Brett asked how the animals had died. Stu said he did not know. Beth Levesque said someone had shot a fox near her home on Pasture Way and it was disturbing.

Warrant 11 – Selectmen signed expenditure warrant 11 for \$186,201.29. Stu noted there were two school payrolls and an operations warrant included, as well as the stipend expense reimbursement checks for the firefighters. Selectmen also signed a letter of thanks to the firefighters.

Overdrafts – Stu said the Code Enforcement Officer contract approved is in excess of the budget approved by town meeting. A short discussion followed on how that happened and the negotiation process. An article will have to be placed on the March 2007 town meeting warrant to cover the overdraft, either from surplus or from the Code Enforcement Fund.

Stu said the administration account might be overdrawn, depending on the cost to install a railing on the handicapped entrance ramp.

Brett asked about the salt/sand shed funds, and whether that should roll over into another fund. Perry said he would suggest leaving that alone. A short discussion followed on using the salt priority plowing program.

Small Animal Clinic Contract – Jo moved to renew the contract with the Small Animal Clinic in Ellsworth for boarding stray animals. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0, Selectmen signed the contract.** A brief discussion followed on how lost dogs are tracked through local registration tags.

School Building Warrant – Special Town Meeting – School Committee chair Faith Perkins said they wished to discuss several questions, including use of the gravel money. She said the building project is moving very fast. She said the plan was to sign the town

meeting warrant at the next Selectmen's meeting, but bond counsel said 45-days notice is needed. She said the school department asked the architect to lower the projected costs, which they have done through using a pre-fabricated gym structure.

Ms. Perkins said the school committee is asking the Selectmen to call the referendum vote for January 23, 2007 and to authorize the warrant articles. She said they have a building plan for the Selectmen this evening, but there will be no public hearing on December 13th. The public hearing instead will be held on January 10th.

Ms. Perkins said the warrant articles are worded with one for the renovation loan and the second for \$2,940,000 in borrowing for a classroom addition, gymnasium, and a site plan re-work at the school. Perry asked if the \$2.94 million was in addition to the renovation bond. Ms. Perkins said yes. She said that figure does not take into consideration revenue sources from the Jina's Gym fund and the gravel sales from the town. She said that is the total estimated cost of the project beyond the state approved renovations. Jo noted the dollar figure on the warrant is required, but town meeting could vote later to apply funds from the other sources toward payment of the bond. Stu said the warrant is asking only to borrow that much money, and confirmed Jo's statement that other funds could be used in the payback. Ms. Perkins said the other revenue sources could help defray the costs of the bond payback for the first few years. She said the school committee has discussed the various aspects of the payback, and will want to talk to the Selectmen about the gravel money soon.


Brett asked if a municipality could pay back money early. Stu said it depends on how the bond is worded. He said he did so with the dump closing loan many years ago, and he believed that language was also in the fire truck loan.

A brief discussion followed on the various building options that were proposed. School Committee member Bob Pulver said the numbers on the warrant are the true number. Jo asked the school committee to summarize what got taken into account following the public input meetings. Ms. Perkins said a pre-fabricated metal building for the gym cut the costs. She said they cut down on the number of showers and changed the kitchen configuration to make it easier for food service to the gym. Mr. Pulver said the renovation funds were factored out of the cost – i.e. replacing the boilers. Perry asked what happens to the portable classrooms. Ms. Perkins said the idea is to sell them with the proceeds going toward the project. A short discussion followed on the safety aspects of the portable classrooms and the entrances into the school. Jo said a controlled entrance will make a huge difference in building security.


Other areas discussed included:


 Showers

 Landscaping

 Consolidation – The school board members said the population of the Lamoine School is steady and increasing. Ms. Perkins said they analyzed sending students to Ellsworth and the tuition savings a couple years ago would have only been \$171,000 and would be less now because of a higher number of students. She

said the town would have no say on how the money is spent, and less school choice for high school.

 Operating Costs for the new building – Mr. Pulver said the operating costs would remain constant or possibly fall because of new energy efficiencies through boilers and lighting. He said the janitor might spend an hour or 1.5 hours more on building maintenance per day.

 Emergency Sheltering/Community Building

 Parking

Brett moved to sign the warrant as proposed for a special town meeting referendum on January 23rd. Jo 2nd, saying she was excited by this referendum. She noted the warrant includes a recommended vote in favor by the Selectmen. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Selectmen sign the town meeting warrants, an order calling for the town meeting, and a public hearing order for January 10, 2007.

Land Conservation Initiative – Brett said it seems like the land conservation effort that seems to have started has never really existed because the committee was formed only as a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission and not by the Selectmen. Jo confirmed the Selectmen have not authorized the committee. She said the land use initiative committee has voted to dissolve itself and become a non-town function. She said the budget committee responded positively to funding. A short discussion followed in regard to funding the land conservation initiative outside of the town budget, and whether town funding is a good idea.

Executive Session – Interview applicants for Deputy CEO position. – Jo moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6) (a). Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0. In at 8:32 PM Out at 8:47 PM.**

Cynthia moved to find that there was no conflict of interest in the Deputy Code Enforcement Officer serving as a Planning Board Member. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-1 (Donaldson opposed).**

Jo moved to appoint Michael Jordan as the Deputy Code Enforcement Officer. Perry 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Selectmen signed appointment papers for Mr. Jordan.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst.